

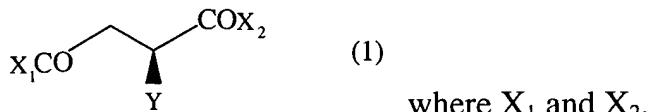
**AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT:**

Please insert the Abstract as follows after the claims pages (a separate sheet is also attached):

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An inner salt of L-carnitine is prepared by reduction, with a suitable reducing

agent, of a compound of formula (I):



where  $\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$ ,

which may be the same or different, are hydroxy,  $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$  alkoxy, phenoxy, halogen, or  $\text{X}_1$  and  $\text{X}_2$ , when taken together are an oxygen atom and the resulting compound is a derivative of succinic anhydride;  $\text{Y}$  is halogen, a mesyloxy or a tosyloxy group, and subsequent treatment with water, then with a base and then with trimethylamine.